

Has your job been adversely affected by foreign competition?

The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program includes among eligible workers those directly affected by increased imports or certain shifts of production to other countries. Eligible workers also include secondarily affected workers of an upstream supplier or downstream producer to a certified primary firm. When a layoff or work reduction occurs, a petition for TAA must be filed with the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) and the TAA Coordinator by:

- A group of 3 or more workers
- A certified union official or representative
- Official of the employer/firm
- One Stop operators or partner
- State dislocated worker unit staff

The petition and help completing the petition is available from CareerCenters and other State Workforce Agency offices. Filing a petition will trigger immediate rapid response and basic adjustment services to workers. Rapid reemployment is the goal. The USDOL has forty calendar days to complete its investigation and certify eligibility.

Benefits Available through the Trade Act

- Re-employment Services
- Training and Related Expense Reimbursement
- Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA)
- Health Coverage Tax Credit
- Job Search Allowance
- Relocation Allowance
- Wage Supplement

How can you qualify for these benefits?

- You must complete a TRA-26, "Request for Determination of Initial Entitlement to TAA/TRA"
- You must be pre-approved for all TAA/TRA services and benefits by a CareerCenter counselor
- You must be enrolled in training 8 weeks after the petition certification date or 16 weeks after separation
- You must complete an employability plan or TRA-7 to lock in additional TRA benefits

Re-employment Services

- Job search strategies
- Resume, cover letters, applications
- Referrals to jobs
- Labor Market Information
- Interview preparation

Training – up to 104 weeks

- On-the-Job Training
- Occupational Training
- Customized Training
- Remedial Training
- Other training related expenses
 - Tuition, books, fees, tools, and uniforms
 - Travel expenses (if beyond normal commute)
 - Subsistence allowance (if training is not available within your commuting area.)

Six criteria applied to program before training can be approved

1. Suitable employment is not available for you (Your CareerCenter Counselor will match your skill level, salary, and commuting area to jobs listed)
2. You will benefit from training
3. You meet entry level education/training program requirements and have the financial resources to carry you through
4. Training is reasonably available to you (travel/subsistence)
5. Training is suitable for you and available at a reasonable cost
6. You can reasonably expect to find employment following completion of your training program

Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA) – Weekly Benefits

(You must file a weekly claim and meet eligibility requirements to be paid.)

- Up to 26 weeks of regular unemployment benefits
- Up to 26 weeks of basic TRA
- Up to 52 weeks of additional TRA
- Up to 26 weeks of TRA benefits if in remedial training

Duration of Training

- Regular training is available for up to 104 weeks
- Remedial education is available for up to 26 *additional weeks* for a maximum total of 130 weeks.

Additional TRA Allowances – You may be able to collect up to 26 weeks of additional TRA if you use up your unemployment insurance and Basic TRA benefits. If you need more time and financial help to complete your training, you can apply for the additional TRA benefits. The additional benefits can only be paid to you if you applied for your training program within 210 days of your company's first TAA certification, or, if later, within 210 days of your most recent layoff.

Break in Training – If you have more than a 30-day break in your TAA training (not counting National and State holidays and weekends), TRA benefits are not payable. TRA payments will resume when your approved TAA training starts again.

Six specific situations when training can be waived

1. You have a written note that you will be recalled within 6 months (specific recall date is required)
2. You have marketable skills (determined by assessment)
3. You are within 2 years of qualifying for Social Security or a privately sponsored pension
4. You are in poor health but can actively seek and accept full time work
5. You are determined eligible for training but the first available enrollment date is delayed (training must begin within 60 days)
6. Training is not available at a reasonable cost or funds are not available under TAA or other Federal laws

Job Search Requirements – If you complete training or receive a waiver from training, you must actively seek full time employment to receive Basic TRA benefits. CareerCenter staff will help you through your work search. Re-employment is the goal!

Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC)

- You must be covered under a TAA certification of eligibility for TAA benefits.

- Your HCTC eligibility may begin on the 61st day after the date the petition was filed.
- You must be entitled to UI benefits.
- You must be enrolled in approved training, have completed a training program or have obtained a waiver. (This requirement is applicable during the period that you are receiving TRA as well as UI.)
- You must have received TRA or UI benefits on any day of the month to qualify for HCTC that month.
- You are eligible for an additional month after ceasing to be an eligible TAA recipient and as such remain eligible for the advanced tax credit for one more month.
- You must call toll free **1-866-628-4282** to apply for an advance tax credit – if eligible, the HCTC office would pay 65% of your health insurance premium – you pay 35%.

Job Search Allowance

- You must be pre-approved by your CareerCenter Counselor to seek work beyond your normal commuting area
- 90% of the cost of expenses for meals, lodging, and mileage may be refunded to you
- Maximum amount \$1,250

Relocation Allowance

- You must be pre-approved by your CareerCenter Counselor to seek suitable work beyond your normal commuting area (Certain deadlines apply – see your Counselor)

- You must live 50 miles or more from your new place of work
- You must have a written offer of employment
- Your new job must be within the continental United States
- 90% of the total cost of the following:
 - Cost of meals, lodging, and mileage
 - Cost of moving your household goods and personal and family effects (lesser of 2 estimates)
 - Up to 2 months storage
- A lump sum payment equal to 3 times your average weekly wage (maximum \$1,250)

Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA) Wage Supplement

- Program for older workers
- Must meet eligibility requirements for group and individual
- 50% of difference between reemployment wages and wages earned at separation
 - Payments may not last more than 2 years
 - Total of payments may not exceed \$10,000 over 2 year period (whichever of these runs out first)

REMINDER: CareerCenter staff must approve training programs, job search allowances and relocation allowances in advance. The HCTC toll free number is 1-866-628-4282.

For more information and help with the TAA Program, contact one of our staff at your local CareerCenter.

AUGUSTA

2 Anthony Avenue
109 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0109
624-5120 or 1-800-760-1573
TTY: 624-5134 or 1-800-633-0770
Fax: 624-5133

BANGOR

45 Oak Street, Suite #3
Bangor, ME 04401-7902
561-4050 or 1-888-828-0568
TTY: 561-4070; Fax: 561-4066

(TDC Job Training)

One Cumberland Place,
Suite 116
Bangor, ME 04401
945-9431 or 1-800-834-0292
Fax: 945-5966

BATH

34 Wing Farm Parkway
Bath, ME 04530-1515
442-0300 or 1-888-836-3355
TTY: 443-7449; Fax: 442-0065

BELFAST

9 Field Street, Suite 309
Belfast, ME 04915-6663
338-5158 or 1-877-421-7917
TTY: 338-4399; Fax: 338-5000

CALAIS

13 Beech Street, P.O. Box 415
Calais, ME 04619-0415
454-7551 or 1-800-543-0303
TTY: 454-7230; Fax: 454-0349

DOVER-FOXCROFT

50 Pine Crest Drive
Pine Crest Business Park
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426
564-8358 or 1-800-350-4165
TTY: 564-6990; Fax: 564-3263

EAST MILLINOCKET

One Industrial Drive, Suite 2
East Millinocket, ME 04430
746-9608 or 1-800-777-8173
Fax: 746-9439

ELLSWORTH

Mill Mall
248 State Street, Suite 3A
Ellsworth, ME 04605-1850
664-2300 or 1-800-371-7543
TTY: 667-1576; Fax: 667-4789

HOULTON

91 Military Street, Suite 2
Houlton, ME 04730-2421
532-5300 or 1-800-691-0033
TTY: 532-5301; Fax: 532-5302

LEWISTON

5 Mollison Way
Lewiston, ME 04240-5805
753-9000 or 1-800-741-2991
TTY: 753-9067; Fax: 783-5301

MACHIAS

15 Prescott Drive, Suite 1
Machias, ME 04654-9752
255-1900 or 1-800-292-8929
TTY: 255-1908; Fax: 255-4778

MADAWASKA

(ACAP Job Training)
88 Fox Street, Suite 103
Madawaska, ME 04756-1352
728-6345 or 1-800-432-7881
Fax: 728-4491

NEWCASTLE

Academy Hill, P.O. Box 668
Newcastle, ME 04553-0668
563-8697; TTY 563-2421
Fax: 563-1289

PORTLAND

185 Lancaster Street
Portland, ME 04101-2453
771-5627 or 1-877-594-5627
TTY: 822-0412; Fax: 822-0221

PRESQUE ISLE

66 Spruce Street, Suite #1
Presque Isle, ME 04769-3222
760-6300 or 1-800-635-0357
TTY: 760-6312; Fax: 760-6350

ROCKLAND

116 Tillson Avenue
Rockland, ME 04841-3424
594-9576 or 1-877-421-7916
TTY: 596-6251; Fax: 594-1428

RUMFORD

35 Congress Street
Rumford, ME 04276-2096
364-3738 or 1-877-421-7915
TTY: 369-9781; Fax: 369-9315

SACO

110 Main Street, Suite 1400
Saco, ME 04072-3504
286-2650 or 1-800-760-1570
TTY: 286-2680; Fax: 286-2655

SKOWHEGAN

98 North Avenue
Skowhegan, ME 04976-1923
474-4950 or 1-800-760-1572
TTY: 474-4902; Fax: 474-4914

SOUTH PARIS

232 Main Street
South Paris, ME 04281
743-7763; Fax: 743-8439

SPRINGVALE

9 Bodwell Court
Springvale, ME 04083-1801
324-5460 or 1-800-343-0151
TTY: 490-1103; Fax: 324-7069

WATERVILLE

100 JFK Plaza
Waterville, ME 04901-5015
872-5516; TTY: 873-1935
Fax: 873-5804

WILTON

865 US Route 2E
Wilton, ME 04294-6649
645-5800 or 1-800-982-4311
TTY: 645-5806; Fax: 645-2093